



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08364.0022-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Neil PORTER et al. )  
)  
Application No.: 09/890,855 ) Group Art Unit: 1744  
)  
Filed: October 31, 2001 ) Examiner: William H. Beisner  
)  
For: APPARATUS FOR PRESERVING )  
MICROORGANISMS )

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**MAR 09 2004**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In reply to the Office Action mailed October 8, 2003 (the "Office Action"), Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. The period for reply having been extended for two months by a request for extension of time and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, this reply is due by March 8, 2004, and is timely filed.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.